

back in the 1960s the United States government started a war on poverty, and back in 1965 it established the Office of Economic Opportunity. One of the functions in that office called for the creation of local antipoverty agencies that have been known to us today, are known to us today as Community Action Agencies. And we have in Nebraska nine different Community Action Agencies and I will have the Page pass out a map which shows the location of the nine different Community Action Agencies in the State of Nebraska. Now these Community Action Agencies have existed since the mid-1960s dependent almost entirely on federal funds and what they have done is that they have done a variety of programs dealing with older people and they have established nutritional sites. They have established the transportation programs that are so effective in rural Nebraska. For you, Senator Peterson, they have a solid gardening program here in Lincoln. They have a variety of activities that they do. They do a lot of the weatherization work in Nebraska. They just do a whole host of different activities throughout our state and again I am going to have a Page pass out a synopsis of the kind of work that these Community Action Agencies have done and you can take a look at that at your leisure. In any event, in 1981 as part and parcel of the overall redoing of the federal government, of the federal government, the federal Congress decided to abolish the Community Services Administration, that was the federal administration, the big umbrella agency that controlled and regulated these local Community Action Programs. But it didn't simply wipe out the Community Services Administration and the local Community Action Agencies. What it did is it took the monies that went to the Community Action Agencies and put it in a block grant so there now today is a Community Services block grant and that block grant for Nebraska is about \$2.4 million. It is not a whole lot of money and that represents all of the federal money coming to Nebraska for the nine Community Action Agencies. Now the block grant regulation simply says that a state can have a Community Action Program if the state wants to do so. So what has happened in Nebraska is pretty simple. The Nebraska Department of Public Welfare has over the years been sort of the overseer of Nebraska's Community Action Agencies and it simply has continued to oversee the Community Action Agency without this time, however, the benefit of any regulations in the area. They just don't have any regulations. So our Community Action Agencies today do not have any real regulatory or statutory authority for their continued existence. So what they did, they came to me and they said, "Vard, would you introduce LB 490, the sole purpose of which, the sole purpose of which is to legitimate the continued existence of the Community Action Programs in Nebraska. We